

NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA) OF SOUTH AFRICA: WHY GREEN AWARD?

We as the National Ports Authority (NPA) of South Africa proudly support the Green Award initiative, as initiatives of this nature go hand in hand with our corporate Environmental Policy and are in line with our implementation of ISO 14001 in all our ports.

Sustainable development is something that NPA regards as a crucial element in all business aspects, not just for the future but also in all current management initiatives. Continuous efforts will be made to improve environmental management in ports and positively affect those around us. By responsibly managing our own organisation and continuously striving to be amongst the best, we too encourage other companies and institutions to do the same and we strive to use our influence to better environmental actions. To this end, we are currently in the process of implementing an environmental management system (EMS) in accordance with ISO 14001 in all ports, which will allow for our organisation's effective alignment with international views on environmental and sustainability issues, thereby further improving our environmental performance. Both the Port of Saldanha and the Port of East London have already received certification in these regards, thereby making them the first ports in Africa with such accreditation. Therefore, we believe that by supporting improved environmental management initiatives such as Green Award, we are not only **improving the efficiency** of our EMS, but also **contributing to sustainability** in South Africa and the African continent. These initiatives are in place to help us achieve a range of goals, including buy-in from communities, reducing financial & environmental risks, and in the end encourage competitiveness, thereby increasing our bottom line.

One of the major benefits for NPA stemming from Green Award is the **considerable reduction in risks** posed by oil tankers and other vessels who take part in the Green Award certification – from an environmental point of view, as well as various **economic, safety & security improvements** that are to be gained. Vessels certified under these criteria are expected to not only adhere to environmental requirements, but also address issues with regards to safety, health, contingency management and improved operational procedures. In this regard, we would strongly encourage Green Award to incorporate the latest ballast water management requirements (as per the recent adoption of the international IMO Convention for the Control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and Sediments) into these criteria/requirements for Green Award certification. Although this Convention has not yet been ratified by South Africa, we at NPA have identified **ballast water management as a strategic component** of our business risks, as well as obvious environmental and biodiversity concerns, and look forward to the updated Green Award criteria that would hopefully take the imminent requirements for ships into consideration prior to approval and certification of these vessels.

To conclude this matter, the support of these environmental initiatives indicates NPA's commitment to **sustainable** management and development, and will improve our **marketability as a world-class port** system that addresses all three tiers of sustainability – **social, economical and environmental**. It positions us very well as a responsible corporate organisation, reflecting South Africa's commitment to similar-minded initiatives raised during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. It is very much in line with our corporate Environmental Policy, which incorporates the principles of **pollution prevention, waste reduction, natural resource conservation and influencing acceptable environmental practices** by our clients and other stakeholders.

Siyabonga Gama
Chief Executive Officer
National Ports Authority of South Africa

May 2004